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# PR 610 The Theology and Practice of Preaching

David L. Rambo

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## Syllabus

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**Course:** PR610 O1 (SP 2009)

**Title:** The Theology and Practice of Preaching

**Hours:** 3.00

**Published:** Yes, on 11/04/2008

**Prerequisites:**

OT(IBS)6xx and SP501

- or -

NT(IBS)6xx and SP501

**Department:** Preaching

**Faculty:** Dr. David Rambo



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Office:

SPO:

### Meetings:

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Tuesday from 2: 30p to 5: 15p in EXLEXL.

**Maximum Registration:** 16

**Catalog Description:** This course nurtures a vision of Christian preaching as a theological and pastoral activity of the church in service to the gospel. The core objectives of this course have been established to facilitate critical understanding of and competence in view of (1) preaching as witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ revealed in the Christian Scriptures and (2) preaching as both a gift of the Holy Spirit and a human vocation which serves the creation of a community called to worship the Triune God as revealed through the narrative of the whole biblical canon. This course approaches preaching as a theological practice and from a perspective shaped by the Wesleyan tradition; it is informed by a conscious integration of doctrinal and biblical exegesis and the practice of theological hermeneutics. Emphasis is placed on the lifelong task of acquiring practical habits appropriate for cultivating judgment required for faithful communication of the biblical witness in service of the Word of God, as an act of Christian worship and within the context of personal, social, and cultural challenge and change.

## Objectives:

PR 610 THE THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF PREACHING

SPRING 2009 Tuesday 2: 30-5: 15 PM

David L. Rambo, PhD, Professor

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This beginning course in preaching will examine the context of preaching and present a methodology for expository, topical and narrative preaching. In addition to lectures and material from the required texts, the course will examine the video-taped preaching of three (3) preachers of ten (10) who were recognized in 1996 by a Baylor University survey to be the best contemporary preachers in the English-speaking world. The purpose of these sermons is to observe critically as these preachers deliver their sermon(s), to note specifically what makes them excellent, to incorporate from their messages helpful guidance for one's preaching and to deliver three (3) sermons that reflect what they have learned. Additionally, students will critically evaluate a recognized preacher in the area by a personal visit. Other taped sermons will be made available for out-of-class listening.

### RATIONALE

This course will introduce three (3) major kinds of preaching through lectures and textbook reading. The professor is committed to the belief that preaching is best learned through practice under the evaluation of professor and fellow

students.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To give a brief historical review of preaching with special emphasis on changes since the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
2. To provide an understanding of the opportunities and challenges of preaching in post-modern times.
3. To provide guidance in the preparation and delivery of sermons.
4. To increase awareness of the elements in good preaching.
5. To listen to, and evaluate, a brief video by three (3) preachers recognized in a 1996 Baylor University survey to be among the most effective preachers in the English-speaking world. John Stott will present an expository sermon, Haddon Robinson, a narrative sermon and William Willimon, a topical message.
6. To insure that disciplined study is faithful to the biblical text.
7. To attend a vital church in the student's geographical area and evaluate the service and the sermon.
8. To give opportunity to preach in class followed by a short written and verbal critique of the message by students and a personal meeting with the professor following the class.

## REQUIRED READING

Henderson, David W. CULTURE SHIFT. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, Inc., 1998.

Lowry, Eugene. THE HOMILETICAL PLOT. Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1980.

Robinson, Haddon W. BIBLICAL PREACHING. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001.

Webb, Joseph M. PREACHING WITHOUT NOTES. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2001.

## RECOMMENDED READING

Chapell, Bryan. CHRIST-CENTERED PREACHING. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, Inc., 1994.

Craddock, Fred. PREACHING. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1985.

Kalas, Ellsworth. PREACHING FROM THE SOUL: Insistent Observations on the Sacred Art. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003.

Long, Thomas G. THE WITNESS OF PREACHING 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2005.

Willhite, Keith and Scott Gibson, Ed. THE BIG IDEA OF BIBLICAL PREACHING. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, Inc., 1998.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Attendance at all classes. Student should call before class if unable to attend or a five percent (5%) course grade reduction will result.

B. Reading required texts with a two-four page report on dates due.

Henderson's CULTURE SHIFT

DUE: February 17

Robinson's BIBLICAL PREACHING

DUE: February 24

Lowry's THE HOMILETICAL PLOT

DUE: March 3

Webb's PREACHING WITHOUT NOTES

DUE: March 10

C. One (1) page description of a person, place or thing DUE: March 3

D. Preaching experiences: (To be assigned at the opening class session.)

a. Twelve (12) minute expository message without notes (visual support encouraged but not required.)

b. Twelve (12) minute topical message with manuscript but preached without notes.

c. Twelve (12) minute narrative message without notes.

E. Fifteen (15) minute interview with the professor on final class day or exam week.

F. Attend and submit a one or two (1 or 2) page evaluation of a service and message.

(Church should be 500 or more in attendance.) Due anytime during the semester before May 1.

CLASS SCHEDULEFebruary 10 *Getting to know you**Review of syllabus**My journey in preaching*

February 17 Constructing the Sermon

Lecture: The Vital Components of Preaching

Analyzing the Audience

Analyzing the Text : The big idea

Sermon Introduction

Body of the Sermon

Sermon Conclusion

Manuscript or notes

Sermon Title: Is it important?

Sermon Delivery: Addressing the listening crisis

February 24 *Preaching to keep them awake**The case for expository preaching*

*Video Sermon by John Stott*

*Student evaluation*

*Student reading of 1-2 page description of person, place or thing  
by Group 1 (first half by alphabet)*

March 3      *The case for topical preaching*

*Topical sermon by William Willimon*

*Student evaluation*

March 10     *The case for narrative preaching: cultivating the fine art of story*

*Narrative sermon by Haddon Robinson followed by student  
discussion*

*Lecture: Construction of a narrative sermon:*

March 17    READING WEEK

March 24    Student Expository Sermons by Group 1 with evaluation  
(1/2 by alphabet)

March 31    Student Expository Sermons by Group 2 with evaluation

April 7      Guest lecturer

April 14     Student Topical Sermons by Group 1 followed by student evaluation

Group 2 will give a 3-5 minute verbal introduction to one of the following  
passages: (Matthew 8: 23-27, Matthew 25: 14-30, Psalm 103)

April 21     Student Topical Sermons by Group 2 followed by student evaluation

Group 1 will give a verbal 3-5 minute introduction to one of the following  
passages: (Luke 16: 1-10, Joshua 1: 1-9, Numbers 13: 26-33)

April 28     Student narrative sermons by Group 1 followed by student evaluation

Group 2 will give a verbal report on church visit

May 5        Student narrative sermons by Group 2 followed by student evaluation

Group 1 will give a verbal report on church visit

May 12     Sermon by Thomas Long with evaluation  
              Sermon by Barbara Brown Taylor with evaluation  
              Preaching that speaks to women by Alice Matthews

May 19     Scheduled fifteen (15) minute message evaluation with professor

DLR November 3, 2008